

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

As set forth above, paragraphs [0019] and [0067]; figures 1-4 and 7-8, and claims 1-3 and 5 are amended.

Objections

Paragraph [0019] was objected to in the specification. Paragraph [0019] has been amended and Applicant respectfully requests the objection be withdrawn.

In addition, the specification was objected to because Japanese Patent Application No. 2001-114260 was incorporated by reference. Paragraph [0067] has been amended to include the publication number and the rejection should now be withdrawn.

In the office action, the drawings were considered informal because the drawing captions were considered not uniform and not well defined. Figure 7 and 8 were objected to because they were not designated prior art. Figures 1-8 are amended, therefore, Applicant requests that the above referenced objections be withdrawn.

In Figure 1, the structure corresponding to reference number 48 (right side) was objected to as the “convexity” because it appears substantially parallel to the plane of the insertion member 40. However, Figures 1(b) and 1(c) illustrate that the surface of the structure corresponding to reference number 48 is not parallel to the plane of the insertion member 40. Therefore, Applicant asserts that the properties of reference number 48 are clearly displayed in Figures 1(a) – 1(c) and respectfully request the objection be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, Claims 1 and 2 were objected to. Claims 1 and 2 are currently amended. Thus, reconsideration of claims 1 and 2 is respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Drawings:

Please substitute the attached 8 sheets (Figs. 1-8) of formal drawings for the informal drawings originally filed with the application. A separate Transmittal of Formal Drawings is submitted.

The drawing sheets attached in connection with the above-identified application containing Figures 1-8 are being presented as a new formal drawing sheets to be substituted for the previously submitted drawing sheets. The drawing Figures 1(a), 2(a), 3(a), 4(a), 7 and 8(a)-(b) have been amended.

The specific changes which have been made are as follows:

The captions for Figures 1-4 and 8 have been removed.

Figures 7-8 are labeled prior art.

Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 2 and 4-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ando, et al., (U.S. Patent 4,480,853). The rejection should be withdrawn because Ando et al. does not disclose, teach or suggest each and every element of claims 1-2 and 4-6.

For example, Ando et al. does not disclose a webbing guide disposed in the opening “for guiding at least one of the sides of the webbing in order to prevent the webbing from shifting along the lateral direction” as called for in claim 1. Furthermore, Ando does not disclose, teach or suggest “a belt guide for reducing the sliding and gathering of the webbing in the lateral direction of the opening” as called for in claim 4. Still further, it is clear that Ando et al. fails to disclose, teach or suggest an insertion member wherein “the width of the opening is slightly greater than the width of the webbing so that ...the lateral ends of the opening confront left and right sides of the webbing in order to substantially prevent the webbing from shifting laterally within the opening” as called for in claim 5.

Ando et al. discloses a “plate-shaped core member” with “a webbing insert slot 50 for allowing webbing 12 to extend there through” (Column 3, lines 21-24). However, there is no disclosure regarding the size of the insert slot 50. In particular, there is no disclosure that the insert slot reduces the lateral movement of the webbing. As shown in Fig. 4 of Ando et al., the insert slot 50 is the same as the conventional prior art described in the application (see Application at Figs. 7, 8(a) and 8(b)). Thus, Ando et al. merely discloses an insertion member with the same disadvantages and faults as the prior art. In Ando et al., the webbing 12 will have the tendency to slide and gather in the insert slot 50 in the same manner shown in Fig. 8(b) of the present application. Fig. 4 of Ando also clearly discloses that the lateral ends of the slot 50 do not “confront left and right sides of the webbing” as called for in claim 5. Thus, the inventions of claims 1, 4 and 5 are not disclosed and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Each of the claims 2-3 and 6 depend from either claims 1 or 5 and are therefore patentable for at least the reasons set forth above without regard to the further patentable limitations contained in these dependent claims. These patentable limitations include, for example, a webbing guide wherein “the width of the opening in the lateral direction is 1.01 to

1.1 times as large as the width of the webbing” as called for in claim 2. Further by way of example, Ando et al. does not disclose an opening wherein “the height of the opening is slightly larger than the thickness of the webbing so that the webbing cannot gather at either lateral end of the opening” as called for in claim 6. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of claims 2, 3 and 6 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion


Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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